GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:910
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2000
INTRODUCTION OF DIRECT TO HOME SERVICES IN INDIA
PUSHPDAN SHAMBHUDAN GADHAVI

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted a ministerial committee to devise a policy decision on Direct to Home Services in India;

(b) if so, the details of terms of reference of the Committee;

(c) whether the Committee has since finalized its report; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY)

(a) & (b):A Group of Ministers (GOM) has been constituted comprising of Ministers of Home Affairs, Finance, Communications, Defence, Information & Broadcasting, Information Technology and Small Scale Industries and Agro and Rural Industries to consider issues connected with Direct to Home (DTH) broadcasting and to review the uplinking policy.

(c) & (d):The GOM has made recommendations with regard to uplinking policy and recommended that private agencies with permissible level of foreign equity as in case of telecommunications sector companies may be permitted to set up uplinking hubs (teleports) which can be hired out to duly approved broadcasters to uplink their channels from India. All Television channels irrespective of their ownership or management control may be permitted to uplink from India provided they undertake to comply with the broadcasting codes. Indian news agencies accredited by the Press Information Bureau may also be permitted to uplink from India. The recommendations have been approved by the Cabinet on 25.7.2000.
The GOM is yet to finalise its recommendations on DTH.